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South Dakota Department of the Military
South Dakota Department of Veterans Affairs

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UNITED WE STAND

Though the flood waters continue to flow and the rains continue to come, South Dakotans continue to stand united. Facing it together, we will master it.

"If you take advantage of everything America has to offer, there's nothing you can't accomplish." (Geraldine Ferraro)

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We
Stand**



MITCHELL CAPITAL FOR A DAY

Governor Daugaard has selected Mitchell for “Capital for a Day.” Activities for the day include a main street walk, tours and meetings around town. There will be a Lake Mitchell Usage and Water Quality community roundtable meeting at Mitchell Technical Institute from 1:30 pm to 2:30 pm. There will be a constituent outreach from 2:30 pm—3:30 pm at the Java City Coffee Shop on the east side of the Dakota Wesleyan University (1201 McGovern Avenue).

Capital for a Day at Mitchell will conclude with a coffee hour at 3:30 pm at the Java City Coffee Shop.



VSO CONGRESSIONAL FORUM

A west river VSO/Congressional Forum will be held on Friday, July 8, at 10:00 am at the American Legion Post 22 headquarters in Rapid City. VA staff, Veterans Service Officers and South Dakota Department of Veterans Affairs staff will meet with staffers from Senator Tim Johnson, Senator John Thune and Congresswoman Kristi Noem's offices.

The forum provides a great opportunity for the congressional staff to provide participants with an update on legislative actions. It also provides leaders within the veteran community the opportunity to share concerns and frustrations with the congressional staff.

BLACK HILLS NATIONAL CEMETERY

The Black Hills National Cemetery complex encompasses Fort Meade National Cemetery, Hot Springs National Cemetery and Black Hills National Cemetery and to date there have been a total of 23,124 burials.

The new cemetery director will arrive July 5, 2011. William Haggerty will be transferring from Fort Smith National Cemetery in Arkansas.

An unaccompanied Veterans Memorial Service will be held on Friday, July 1, at 9:00 am (MT) at the Black Hills National Cemetery's Committal Shelter.



NATIONAL GUARD MEMBERS REENLIST WHILE SERVING THEIR STATE IN PIERRE



South Dakota Air National Guard Brig. Gen. Wayne Shanks, assistant adjutant general for the S.D. Air National Guard, Sioux Falls, administers the Oath of Enlistment to five Airmen (left to right): Master Sgt. Angela Pesicka, Parker, Master Sgt. Rochelle Prickett, Sioux Falls, Sgt. Emily Wallum, Sioux Falls, Matt Hendrickson, Dell Rapids, and Tech. Sgt. Marne Haggert, Pierre, from the 114th Fighter Wing, Sioux Falls, on a levee in Pierre, June 7, 2011. The five Airmen were called to state active duty to help with Missouri River flooding.



Sgt. Chris Weber of Sioux Falls swears in during his reenlistment ceremony with Headquarters, Headquarters Company, 153rd Engineer Battalion, on the levee in Dakota Dunes, Wednesday, June 15, 2011. Weber and other members of the 153rd are currently on state active duty in support of flood prevention operations in southeastern South Dakota.



Sgt. Chris Weber of Sioux Falls, salutes Capt. Thomas Wilcox, commander of Headquarters, Headquarters Company, 153rd Engineer Battalion, during his reenlistment ceremony on the levee in Dakota Dunes, Wednesday, June 15, 2011. Weber and other members of the 153rd are currently on state active duty in support of flood prevention operations in southeastern South Dakota.

PROGRAM TO HONOR ACTIVE MILITARY

The Museum of the South Dakota State Historical Society at the Cultural Heritage Center in Pierre is part of the Blue Star Museums program this summer.

Through Labor Day the Cultural Heritage Center is one of nine museums in South Dakota and more than 1,300 nationwide that will be offering free admission to all active duty military personnel and their immediate families, defined as spouses and children. Active-duty military include Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines, Coast Guard, National Guard and Reserve members.

The free admission is available to any bearer of a valid active military ID card

The featured exhibit this summer at the Cultural Heritage Center is "South Dakota's First Century of Flight," high-

lighting 100 years of aviation history in the state.

Other museums in South Dakota offering free admission this summer through Blue Star Museums include



the Adams Museum & Historic Adams House in Deadwood; the D.C. Booth Historic National Fish Hatchery & Archives and the High Plains Western Heritage Center in Spearfish; the Heritage Center at Red Cloud Indian School in Pine Ridge; the Journey Museum in Rapid City; the Old Courthouse Museum and the Pettigrew Home & Museum in Sioux Falls; and the South Da-

kota Art Museum in Brookings.

Blue Star Museums is a partnership among the National Endowment for the Arts and Blue Star Families, an organization which raises awareness of the challenges and strengths of military family life.

Cultural Heritage Center museum summer hours are 9 am–6:30 pm CDT Monday-Saturday and 1-4:30 pm on Sundays.

For more information call (605) 773-3458 or visit www.history.sd.gov. For more information on Blue Star Museums, visit www.arts.gov/national/bluestarmuseums.



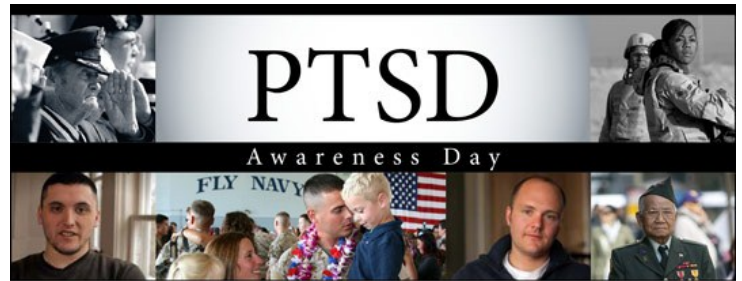
GOLDEN COYOTE TRAINING

The South Dakota National Guards Golden Coyote training is underway in western South Dakota. Soldiers are taking part in various training exercises, including firearms training, virtual convoy operations, combat life saver courses, as well as many other training programs. Their training is three-fold – wartime missions, civil support missions and land defense missions.

Created in the mid 1980's by the South Dakota National Guard, with the cooperation of the National Forest Service and Custer State Park, the Golden Coyote training exercise allows service members to be brought together into a combined joint task force with a mission to provide force protection, humanitarian aid, and infrastructure improvement in a realistic training environment as well as provide valuable services to the public.

NATIONAL PTSD AWARENESS DAY

June 27th is National PTSD Awareness Day. The more we know about dealing with trauma and PTSD, the more we can help others. The VA's National Center for PTSD needs your help to increase awareness. Visit www.ptsd.va.gov to learn more about trauma and PTSD. Educational materials are posted and available for print and review.



HAPPY
Father's
DAY

Give tribute and thanks
to your dad or whomever
may have had a positive
influence in your life.....

What Makes A Dad

*God took the strength of a mountain,
The majesty of a tree,
The warmth of a summer sun,
The calm of a quiet sea,
The generous soul of nature,
The comforting arm of night,
The wisdom of the ages,
The power of the eagle's flight,
The joy of a morning in spring,
The faith of a mustard seed,
The patience of eternity,
The depth of a family need,
Then God combined these qualities,
When there was nothing more to add,
He knew His masterpiece was complete,
And so, He called it ... Dad*

Author Unknown

VETERANS HAVE ACCESS TO JUSTICE

The State Bar of South Dakota has formed "Access to Justice, Inc." to supplement legal services currently being provided by Dakota Plains Legal Services and to help attorneys fulfill their ethical obligation to do pro bono work. Cases that are accepted for participation in the state pro bono program are referred to private attorneys who volunteer their time to help indigent people with their legal problems.

Applicants for the pro bono program under the age of 60 years must live at 125% of the current federal poverty guidelines. The income limit for applicants at age 60 and over is 200% of the current federal poverty guidelines.

Current program priorities include family law, consumer, education, employment, health, housing and wills/estates cases. The greatest need for help from volunteer attorneys in South Dakota is in family law cases for divorce, custody, visitation, and child support matters.

Access to Justice staff is available to help attorneys and clients who may be experiencing problems or need help with a pro bono case. For more information, please contact Cheryl Hanna at 605-791-4147 or visit their website at www.a2jsd.org.

VA AND EASTER SEALS BEGIN TRAINING

Training was held on June 9-10, for more than 500 Family Caregivers who applied for new services offered to Post 9/11 veterans and their caregivers through a program of comprehensive assistance by the VA. The core training, which was developed in collaboration with Easter Seals, is offered in traditional classroom settings, online or through home study with a DVD and workbook. The modules focused on the health and well-being of both the veteran and the family caregiver. The training included information on caregiver self-care, home safety, practical caregiving skills, providing personal care services to the veteran, managing challenging behaviors and locating additional resources.

Since May 9, more than 1,000 Family Caregivers have applied for the new services. The training program was developed by the Easter Seals in collaboration with VA clinical experts as part of a package of new services. The package also includes a stipend, mental health services and access to health care insurance, if they are not already entitled to care or services under a health plan.

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